

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

To:

Commissioner
 US Department of Commerce
 United States Patent and Trademark
 Office, PCT
 2011 South Clark Place Room
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 Arlington, VA 22202
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
 in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 16 November 2000 (16.11.00)	
International application No. PCT/SE00/00597	Applicant's or agent's file reference 2001047
International filing date (day/month/year) 28 March 2000 (28.03.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 29 March 1999 (29.03.99)
Applicant RAHMAN, Shoaab, Abdul et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

20 October 2000 (20.10.00)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:
2. The election ☒ was
☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer F. Baechler Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PC-2001047	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/SE00/00597	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 28.03.2000	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 29.03.1999	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC ₇ A01N 35/02, A01N 43/90, A01N 59/00, A61L 2/16, A61L 2/20			
Applicant Pharma Swede Lund AB et al			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
- These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
- I ☒ Basis of the report
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
 - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 20.10.2000	Date of completion of this report 19.04.2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/SE Patent- och registreringsverket Box 5055 S-102 42 STOCKHOLM Facsimile No. 08-667 72 88	Authorized officer Gerd Strandell/EÖ Telephone No. 08-782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE00/00597

I. Basis of the report**1. With regard to the elements of the international application:***

- ☒ the international application as originally filed
- ☐ the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the claims:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, as amended (together with any statement) under article 19
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the drawings:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheet/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2 (c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item I and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE00/00597

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-6</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-6</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-6</u>	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The claimed invention relates to a process for sterilising a biologically contaminated enclosure in which the enclosure is brought into contact with formaldehyde. Said formaldehyde is released from formalin by heat generated by an exothermic reaction occurring in the presence of said formalin. The exothermic reaction is provided by addition of a first reagent (A) and a second reagent (B) to said formalin in amounts sufficient to generate heat for releasing formaldehyde from said formalin. Said reagent (A) comprises hexamethylenetetramine and said second reagent (B) comprises a peroxide compound or a precursor thereof.

The following documents are cited:

- D1) STN International, File CAPLUS, CAPLUS accession no. 1985:492906, Document no. 103:92906
Intreprinderea de Industrializare a Carnii:
"Disinfection of technological spaces";
& RO,B 85306, 19840929
- D2) US 4356179 A (ALFREDO PETTERUTI), 26 October 1982
(26.10.82), column 1, line 43 - line 50, line 59 -
line 60
- D3) STN International, File CAPLUS, CAPLUS accession no. 1974:41064, Document no. 80:41064,
Dentsu Central Co., Ltd: "Telephone disinfectants",
& JP,B4,47045093, 19721114
- D4) WO 9522309 A1 (VAN DEN ELSHOUT, WILHELMUS,
HENDRICUS, HUBERTUS), 24 August 1995 (24.08.95),
the claims

.../...

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 00/00597

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: V

D5) WO 9723247 A1 (NAGY, LÁSZLÓ), 3 July 1997
(03.07.97), page 3, line 3 - line 26

D6) EP 0329556 A1 (L'AIR LIQUIDE, SOCIETE ANONYME POUR
L'ETUDE ET L'EXPLOITATION DES PROCEDES GEORGES
CLAUDE), 23 August 1989 (23.08.89), page 1,
line 1 - line 27

Document D1) discloses disinfection of technological spaces by using formaldehyde, which is rapidly released from 10-36 % formalin solution by a strong exothermic reaction due to the addition of potassium permanganate.

Document D2), D3) and D4) disclose the combination of formaldehyde or paraformaldehyde with a compound, such as inter alia hexamethylenetetramine.

Document D5) discloses antiperspirant pads which are impregnated with hexamethylenetetramine in neutral or acidic medium for releasing formaldehyde.

Document D6) discloses a synergistic combination of a) a compound forming formaldehyde and b) hydrogen peroxide. Hexamethylenetetramine is not mentioned. A combination of a solution of formaldehyde and hydrogen peroxide does not show any synergism.

Thus, none of the cited documents, taken alone or in combination, explicitly discloses the claimed process being well controlled and safe. The achieved result is not obvious to a person skilled in the art. Thus, the cited documents only disclose the general state of the art, and are not considered to be of particular relevance.

Consequently, the invention claimed in claims 1-6 is considered to fulfil the requirements of novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability.



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : A01N 35/02, 43/90, 59/00, A61L 2/16, 2/20	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/57700 (43) International Publication Date: 5 October 2000 (05.10.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/SE00/00597 (22) International Filing Date: 28 March 2000 (28.03.00) (30) Priority Data: 9901137-1 29 March 1999 (29.03.99) SE (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): PHARMA SWEDE LUND AB [SE/SE]; Professorgatan 5B, S-223 63 Lund (SE). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): RAHMAN, Shoa, Abdul [JO/SE]; Kämpagränden 23B, S-224 76 Lund (SE). KIT- TANEH, Raafat [JO/JO]; Wadi saqra St.-Kalbona Building, 6th Floor, Flat No. 7, Amman (JO). (74) Agent: AWAPATENT AB; Box 5117, S-200 71 Malmö (SE).		(81) Designated States: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), DM, DZ, EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KR (Utility model), KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the</i> <i>claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of</i> <i>amendments.</i>
(54) Title: A PROCESS FOR STERILIZING A BIOLOGICALLY CONTAMINATED ENCLOSURE		
(57) Abstract <p>The present invention relates to a process for sterilizing a biologically contaminated enclosure in which the enclosure is brought into contact with formaldehyde. Said formaldehyde is released from formalin by heat generated by an exothermic reaction occurring in the presence of said formalin. The exothermic reaction is provided by addition of a first reagent (A) and a second reagent (B) to said formalin in amounts sufficient to generate heat for releasing formaldehyde from said formalin. Said reagent (A) comprises hexamethylenetetramine and said second reagent (B) comprises a peroxide compound or a precursor thereof.</p>		

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

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A PROCESS FOR STERILIZING A BIOLOGICALLY
CONTAMINATED ENCLOSURE

The present invention relates to a process for sterilizing a biologically contaminated enclosure and particularly to a safe and easy chemical process for a well-controlled release or fumigation of formaldehyde gas from formalin. The process is intended for sterilizing biologically contaminated enclosures such as animal houses, hatcheries, feed stores, feed bins, feed tanks, feed mills, hospitals, medical instruments or other hard to reach areas in which the slowly and well controlled release of formaldehyde gas from easily available formalin solution is responsible for the complete sterilization by maximizing the excellent killing effects against bacteria, viruses and fungi.

15 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Discussion of related art

It is well known that formaldehyde gas is the mostly used gas in the sterilization of livestock buildings. It is an effective disinfectant against vegetative bacteria, fungi, spores and viruses if an adequate time of exposure and not less than 70% humidity are provided (Remington page 1171, Cooper & Mason 1964).

It can be easily absorbed by surfaces in both its gaseous or liquid state, as it has strong penetration power which increases in completely closed spaces. In a study (Sykes, 1972) it was proved that formaldehyde can attain complete sterilization to a well closed room within two hours at 70% relative humidity.

Its mode of action on living cells is by reaction with the cellular protein and (DNA, RNA) amino acids (Russel, 1976).

Formalin, as a commercially available product, is an aqueous solution containing up to 37% by weight of formaldehyde, HCHO (30.03), with methanol added to prevent

polymerization. The solution is extensively used for disinfecting rooms, which have been subjected to infection, by:

- 5 1. Reaction of formalin with half its weight of potassium permanganate.
2. Spraying it on sheets hung in the room.
- 10 3. Releasing formaldehyde vapor from formalin into the room by a heat generator or heater.
4. Subliming paraformaldehyde powder at 218°C using a heater.

15

There are disclosed in WO 97/23247 A1 antiperspirant pads which are impregnated with hexamethylenetetramine in an acidic or neutral medium for releasing formaldehyde.

From STN International, File Caplus, Accession no. 20 1985:492906, Document no. 103:92906, RO 85306 B, it is known to disinfect technological spaces by using formaldehyde which is rapidly released from a formalin solution by a strong exothermic reaction due to the addition of KMnO_4 .

25 In US patent no. 4356179 formaldehyde products are used as agricultural fungicides. The products can for example be obtained by adding hexamethylenetetramine to formaldehyde.

30 All the above mentioned methods have many disadvantages. Using potassium permanganate to evaporate formaldehyde results in a very vigorous and dangerous reaction, which is completed within few seconds, and this does not give enough time for the worker to escape safely and many fatal accidents have been reported in real life.

35 It can be proved that spraying formalin on sheets is non-reproducible and does not release enough formaldehyde gas as it is temperature-dependent as can be seen from the following table

<u>Concentration and type of formaldehyde</u>	<u>Time needed to kill spores</u>	<u>Time needed to kill bacteria</u>
Formaldehyde gas	2 hours	2 hours
8% formalin	18 hours	18 hours
0.5% formalin	2-4 days	6-12 hours

Formaldehyde gas is thus described as being a sterilizing agent, while formalin (10% strength) is described as being an antiseptic agent; hence there is a need to use the formaldehyde gas as a sterilizer rather than using the formalin, as formalin is time consuming and requires diligent application through decontamination.

Reference: Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 18th. Ed., pages 1171, 1470. Merck Index 11th Ed.

Further, contaminated, highly sophisticated electronic and dental equipment may be damaged by sterilizing liquid agents like those described in US Patent 31779 or by heat or autoclaving etc. US Patent 5552112 introduced a new method for sterilizing a metallic surgical instrument with microwave radiation but the method suffers from non-availability of microwave source to everyone and high cost. As mentioned in US Patent 5552112, gas sterilization with an ethylene oxide mixture is acceptable for both hanpieces and burs. However, this is impractical because of cost of equipment, long sterilization and aeration times involved, and cost of providing adequate protection for personnel. Alkaline glutaraldehyde (2%) as mentioned by Boucher in US Patent 3912450, is used to sterilize equipment, but it must be used for 10 hours to kill spore-forming organisms or tuberculosis microorganisms and is irritating to tissue.

Many workers could successfully release formaldehyde gas using generators or heaters and some patents have been published like US Patents: 4585624, 665794, 1837264, 2993832, 3694146, 3816074, 3898038 and 4166087. All these patents describe different apparatus systems for vaporiz-

ing formaldehyde and dispensing it into the enclosure to be sterilized for contact with contaminants. However, such methods suffer from high cost of instruments, maintenance, availability, complexity and restricted volume of formalin to be evaporated. No work has ever been known to use a safe chemical process for the evaporation of formaldehyde as an alternative for the unsafe usage of potassium permanganate or other conventional methods.

10 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides an ideal, chemical and safe process for releasing formaldehyde gas from a formalin solution by evaporation using heat generated by an exothermic reaction in order to simplify and optimize the use of formaldehyde gas in sterilizing closed spaces, like houses, buildings for housing animals, hospitals, operating rooms, stores, hotels, bath rooms or any object needing to be sterilized.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a process for sterilizing enclosures, such as animal houses, hatcheries, feed stores, feed bins, feed tanks, feed hauling truck bins or tanks, feed mills or other hard to reach areas, or rooms in hospitals, clinics, research laboratories and the like by chemically releasing gaseous formaldehyde into the enclosure for contact with contaminants.

The present invention is based on the finding that the release of formaldehyde gas can be easily provided by heat generated by an exothermic reaction occurring in the presence of formalin. The released formaldehyde gas can be used for sterilizing closed spaces of the kind exemplified above. Exothermic chemical reactions involving various reagents are known to one skilled in the chemical art. In general, a chemist can chose any reagents for such exothermic reactions. Needless to say, it is advantageous to chose reagents, which are easily available and cheep. Once chosen the amounts of reagents sufficient to

generate heat for releasing gaseous formaldehyde for sterilization from formalin are easily determined by one skilled in the art. As an example of appropriate reagents there can be mentioned hexamethylenetetramine and peroxide compounds or precursors of peroxide compounds, which when mixed, and in the presence of formalin, bring about an exothermic reaction releasing formaldehyde gas for sterilizing.

According to the invention the exothermic reaction is provided by addition of reagents to the formalin in amounts sufficient to generate heat for releasing formaldehyde from the formalin. In accordance therewith, the reagents comprise a first reagent A and a second reagent B, said reagent A comprising hexamethylenetetramine, optionally in admixture with sulphur sublime, red iron oxide, silica, preferably that sold under the tradename Aerosil, and citric acid, and the second reagent B comprising a peroxide compound, such as hydrogen peroxide, or a precursor thereof.

According to a most preferred embodiment, the reagent A comprises Methenamine (hexamethylenetetramine) and the reagent B comprises a hydrogen peroxide solution. Mostly preferred, said solution contains 10-50% hydrogen peroxide.

In accordance with the present invention the formalin, for example having a concentration of 10-40% formaldehyde gas, is mixed with the reagent A comprising hexamethylenetetramine and the reagent B, for example hydrogen peroxide. As explained below, the temperature of the reaction solution will increase spontaneously by the exothermic chemical reaction and the production of formaldehyde gas starts effectively at 60°C. The temperature rises and release of formaldehyde gas reaches the maximum value at 90°C.

As non-limiting examples of peroxide compounds the following can be mentioned: ammonium peroxosulfate, potassium peroxodisulfate, hydrogen peroxide, acetyl perox-

ide, benzoyl peroxide and cumene hydroperoxide.

According to a most preferred embodiment, wherein said reagents comprise hexamethylenetetramine and hydrogen peroxide the ratio between these is within the range of 0.7-1.5.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION:

The present invention is illustrated by the following example:

To evaporate 10 ml up to maximum 3500 ml (preferably 2000 ml) of formalin containing 10%-40% of formaldehyde gas in water:

The above formalin quantity is mixed with 100g-400g, preferably 200 g powder (A) which consists of five ingredients as follows:

<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Range in grams</u>	<u>Preferably in grams</u>
Sulphur sublime	0-10	0.30
Iron oxide, red	0-10	0.30
"Aerosil"	0-5	0.40
Citric acid	0-5	4.00
Methenamine	180-210	195.00

In case of sterilizing highly sophisticated medical or dental instruments or other similar objects Methenamine (hexamethylenetetramine) without the rest of chemicals shown in the above table should be used.

After mixing the above quantity of powder (A) with the above amount of formalin, (100ml-400ml, best results with 200ml) liquid (B) is added.

It is the powder part, which controls the reaction, and provides enough time for the operator before the onset of the evaporation process.

Liquid (B) is hydrogen peroxide having a concentration of 10%-50% (best results with 50%). It is the heat generated by mixing powder (A) and liquid (B) which helps

in heating and evaporation or controlled fumigation of formalin.

After about five minutes, the temperature of the solution increases spontaneously by the exothermic chemical reaction and the production of formaldehyde gas starts effectively at 60° C. With the rise of the temperature of the exothermic reaction the evaporation of formaldehyde gas becomes very strong and reaches the maximum at 90° C (after about 10 minutes).

10

EXAMPLES:

Example 1:

In order to illustrate the invention the following non-limiting example is given:

15 A 4000 m³ (10000 bird capacity) chicken house was chosen to be sterilized immediately after the complete evacuation of the building and before the new bird cycle. The house was left as such without further cleaning. Swabs were taken from different representative areas of the house (ceiling, flour etc.). All windows and openings were tightly closed. The house was humidified with water to obtain at least 70% relative humidity. The chosen formalin amount for the experiment was 2 lit per 100m³, so 40 lit of (37%) formaldehyde solution were divided into 20 plastic containers (10 lit capacity each) such that each container contains 2 lit of formalin. The containers were placed evenly in the house. To each container 200 g of powder (A) were added and consisting of:

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Quantity (g)</u>
30	Sulfur Sublime	0.30
	Iron oxide, red	0.30
	"Aerosil"	0.40
	Citric acid	4.00
	Methenamine	195.00
35	TOTAL	200.00

Powder (A) was mixed thoroughly with formalin and thereafter 200 ml of liquid (B) (50% hydrogen peroxide) were added to every container and mixed.

In every container solution temperatures were recorded against time, and the following average solution temperatures were obtained against time.

<u>Time in minutes</u>	<u>Solution Temperature °C</u>
3	40
5	60
7	80
10	95
30	95
40	85
50	75
60	65
100	40

Formaldehyde started evaporating effectively when the temperature of the solution reached 60° C after 5 minutes of mixing all ingredients together.

After 10 minutes the evaporation became extensive (boiling).

This temperature was attained for 20 minutes before it declined and reached room temperature after two hours.

The chicken house was kept closed and empty for 48 hours after which it was well ventilated and swabs were taken again randomly and analyzed for total fungal and bacterial count.

<u>Average count before sterilization</u>	<u>Average count after sterilization</u>
1000,000 colonies/g	2 colonies/g

Example 2:

Calculate the size of the house and then put in separate containers (20 liters capacity) two liters of Formalin for each 100 cubic metre. Add 200 g of reagent A by mixing with the standard Formalin in all containers; steer the mix after adding the powder until it is com-

pletely dissolved, then add 200 ml of Reagent B to the mixture and leave the house. After five minutes evaporation starts and the release of formaldehyde gas continue for more than four hours and it is preferable to keep the house closed overnight. The production of formaldehyde gas starts effectively at 60°C. The evaporation becomes very strong and reaches the maximum at 90°C after 10 minutes. Fumigation works best at temperatures above 18°C, therefore the house temperature should be maintained above this level and the humidity should be around 70%. The composition of reagent A is sulphur, iron oxide, dicalcium phosphate and hexamethylenetetramine. Reagent A controls the formaline evaporation reaction and provides a suitable time before the onset of evaporation. Reagent B is a liquid comprising 50% hydrogen peroxide which is sufficient to evaporate two litres of 37% formalin solution. Reagent B assists in heating and functions as a catalyst for evaporation of formalin.

Reagent A is to be kept in a cool place at a temperature below 30°C, out of reach of children and feed stock places. Reagent B is also to be kept in a cool place at a temperature below 30°C, out of reach of children and feed stock places.

Example 3:

The procedure of this example was carried out in the same manner as in example 2 with the exception of that the composition of reagent A is 100% hexamethylenetetramine powder. The results of this experiment were also excellent as in the aforementioned experiments.

The present invention, therefore, is well suited and adapted to attain the intended objects and has the advantages and features mentioned as well as others inherent therein. The foregoing description is provided to illustrate the invention, and is not to be construed as a limitation.

REFERENCES

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bacteria by gases. SOC.APPL.Bacterial., 5, 61-
68.
2. Cooper, E.A., and Mason, J. 1964. Studies of
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126.
3. Sykes, M.K. 1972 . Sterilization of ventilators.
Int. Anesthesiol. Clin., 10, 131.
4. Pharmaceutical CODEX. 1976.
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1983 third edition, Seymor S. Block.
8. Poultry Production. Sunil Kumar Das, 1994 First
edition.

CLAIMS

1. A process for sterilizing a biologically contaminated enclosure in which the enclosure is brought into contact with formaldehyde, said formaldehyde being released from formalin by heat generated by an exothermic reaction occurring in the presence of said formalin, the exothermic reaction being provided by addition of at least one reagent to said formalin in amounts sufficient to generate heat for releasing formaldehyde from said formalin, characterized in that said at least one reagent comprises a first reagent (A) and a second reagent (B), said reagent (A) comprising hexamethylenetetramine, optionally in admixture with sulphur sublimed, red iron oxide, silica and citric acid, and said second reagent (B) comprising a peroxide compound or a precursor thereof.

2. A process of claim 1, wherein said reagent (B) comprises a hydrogen peroxide solution.

3. A process of any one of claims 1-2, wherein to evaporate formaldehyde gas from every 10 ml up to maximum 3500 ml of formalin the following ranges of constituents of reagent (A) are needed: (0-10) grams of sulphur sublimed, (0-10) grams of red iron oxide, (0-5) grams of silica, (0-5) grams of citric acid and (180-210) grams of hexamethylenetetramine.

4. A process of claim 2, wherein the solution contains 10-50% hydrogen peroxide.

5. A process of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the ratio between the reagents (A, B) is 0.7-1.5.

6. A process of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the formalin has a concentration of 10-40% formaldehyde gas.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 00/00597

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: A01N 35/02, A01N 43/90, A01N 59/00, A61L 2/16, A61L 2/20
 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: A01N, A61L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	STN International, File CAPLUS, CAPLUS accession no. 1985:492906, Document no. 103:92906 Intreprinderea de Industrializare a Carnii: "Disinfection of technological spaces"; & RO,B 85306, 19840929 --	1-6
A	US 4356179 A (ALFREDO PETTERUTI), 26 October 1982 (26.10.82), column 1, line 43 - line 50, line 59 - line 60 --	1-6
A	STN International, File CAPLUS, CAPLUS accession no. 1974:41064, Document no. 80:41064, Dentsu Central Co.,Ltd: "Telephone disinfectants", & JP,B4,47045093, 19721114 --	1-6

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

8 June 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

21 -07- 2000

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 00/00597

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 9522309 A1 (VAN DEN ELSHOUT, WILHELMUS, HENDRICUS, HUBERTUS), 24 August 1995 (24.08.95), the claims --	1-6
A	WO 9723247 A1 (NAGY, LÁSZLÓ), 3 July 1997 (03.07.97), page 3, line 3 - line 26 --	1-6
A	EP 0329556 A1 (L'AIR LIQUIDE, SOCIETE ANONYME POUR L'ETUDE ET L'EXPLOITATION DES PROCEDES GEORGES CLAUDE), 23 August 1989 (23.08.89), page 1, line 1 - line 27 -- -----	1-6

02/12/99

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